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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE LOSS OF A GREAT LEADER

THE mournful news of the death of Miss Isla Stewart, matron for nearly twenty-five years of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has just come as we go to press. A woman Greatheart has gone from us, and to all those who knew her the loss will seem irreparable. What she has been to the English progressive movement in nursing only those who worked with her can know. The grief of her friends and comrades is deep and real.

THE NURSING JOURNAL OF INDIA

THE *Nursing Journal of India* has made its appearance in most attractive and dignified guise, and will be warmly welcomed into the circle of professional journals. It is published by the Association of Nursing Superintendents of India and the Trained Nurses' Association of India, and represents the ardent and successful aspirations of a very public-spirited group of women. The editor is Mrs. Klosz, Akola, Berar, C.P., and the manager Miss J. W. Thorpe, Civil Hospital, Belgaum, Bombay Presidency. For the members of the associations the subscription is included in membership fees; from America the subscription will be \$1.25 by postal order. Our alumnae societies should all take it, for it is going to record history in the making of a most appealing kind, namely, the modernizing and outbringing of the women of India. The journal contains the proceedings of the superintendents' conference and other general matter of an interesting nature.

DR. HAMILTON'S THESIS

A MONTH or so ago we noted the appearance of a book on nursing which appeared in Italy, written by Professor Baccarani, and which had excited the joy and hope of all the progressive nurses in Italy by reason of its very advanced stand on nursing questions. It now appears that the author did not work out his views unaided as we had supposed, but that he drew his material from Dr. Hamilton's thesis, translating much of it literally. His book is indeed an Italian

arrangement of the thesis, but he did not make the source of his material plain in the first edition of his work. However, he must still be credited with advanced views in agreeing with Dr. Hamilton.

IRELAND AND IRISH NURSES

A BEAUTIFUL country is the Emerald Isle, the native land of so many good American citizens, and something about its coast line and atmosphere of a sweet summer day when the sun shines in the region of Dublin reminds one of Italy. There is the same dreaminess and melting quality, and in the old gardens to which Mrs. Treacy can take one by some sort of open sesame there is a marvellous luxury of leafage and bowers of the plants of all seasons and all countries, so it seems, with walls and parapets of yew that can compare with any of Italian fame. Dublin is a very fascinating city, of an old-fashioned severe exterior with its straight walls of houses built in the latter part of the eighteenth century, which show within such noble features of space and line and beautiful decoration. One is surprised to find these old mansions revelling in rich Italian handwork in marble and mosaic and plaster, and learns that the aristocratic society of that age imported numbers of skilled Italian artisans into Ireland to decorate their homes. Some of these fine old houses are now turned into hotels, private hospitals, visiting nurses' homes, and other more or less communistic establishments. The Catholic Sisters manage a hospital which they have developed by altering slightly several of these lordly dwellings and building on new corridors and operating rooms, while wisely leaving all the characteristic features of the decorations. They are of wonderful charm, and are much sought by artists. The Sisters, who show the whole place with the utmost bonhomie and kindness, say there is almost always some one's easel sitting in front of a door or mantel. The two groups of the Queen's nurses also inhabit fine old mansions, which seem to take very kindly to modern conveniences.

The hospitals of Dublin also possess a special and unusual variety of attractions. They are of all kinds, old and new, and the old ones recall in many of their features the hospitals of the French provinces, with their red brick tiled floors, massive walls, courts, and arcades. What is quite unique in these older Irish hospitals is their abundant use of rich strong color. As the weather is never really hot, and the skies are much given to pouring down a copious rain, the gray clouds of wetness being supposed to lie near a streak of moods and temperament in the Irish character, this unusual coloring of Indian red, dull rich yellows, and warm blues that is encountered, in corridors especially, has a most pleasing effect and gives the impression of personality.

It would take more than my space to speak of the specially interesting points of all the Dublin hospitals. But mention must be made of the Steevens Hospital, whose foundress looks down from an old portrait in the dignified board room. Much quaint history is embodied in this delightful old place, and one of the medical staff pursues the hobby of collecting hospital history, old prints, documents, and records. Incidentally one would give her steamer ticket to steal the chairs in the board room. Of the new and modern hospitals a charming example is the Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, which is quite perfect in its planning, equipment, and details. The Rotunda is also very admirable. For private hospital patients nothing could be more serene, hospitable, and comfortable than Elpis, the place of hope and cheer and of good things to eat, and for convalescents there are a number of lovely country homes, of which we visited one hidden in beautiful gardens of fruit and flowers.

The Irish matrons form a very striking group. I include in them Miss Huxley, who is really English, but who has been identified with Ireland for twenty years, and Miss Lamont, who is Scotch. Great harmony and a pleasant sociable intimacy prevail between the nurses of Dublin; they seem to be one big family, matrons and sisters and nurses together. I remember several delightful gatherings, when nurses sang the old songs of the country with moans in their voices, and danced the jigs and reels with jollity in their heels, and with most bewitching peasant costumes of red petticoats and kerchiefs and shawls upon their persons. In the evenings they can go to one another's institutions without hats. This, I do not know why, always seems the perfection of informality. Witty and keen, humorous and spirited, progressive and afraid of nobody, the Irish matrons of Dublin stand together unitedly in advancing the standards of modern requirements, and their nurses are loyal and ready around them. Humbugs, like Mr. Burdett, or benefactors, like Mr. Holland, get little glory in Ireland. Nor must I fail to mention the very brotherly and helpful attitude of the Irish doctors toward the women.

The Irish Nurses' Association has always been prompt to the instant in resisting or opposing the various counter-attacks that have been met in the long struggle for registration, and it is now making an active effort to have every nurse in Ireland join the association, with the watchword "Guard the Interests of Irish Nurses." This has resulted from the attempt that was made some time ago by political influence (but why is partly a mystery) to leave Ireland out of a registration act for Great Britain. With this intention, the fees have been lowered to a minimum rate, and the executive committee, comprising all the

matrons of Dublin and Miss Hannan of Belfast, have issued a call to every Irish nurse to join in making the association a United Nurses' League of Management and Self-defence. The organ of the association, the *Irish Trained Nurse and Hospital Review*, appears monthly, and is well edited by a committee. Its mailing address is Printinghouse, Dublin, and our alumnae associations should take it for their libraries with other foreign papers. Its title, by the way, is printed in the old Celtic lettering.

A little bit of Belfast, with a remarkably pretty new hospital which I hope to tell of a little later, and a most interesting glimpse of rural visiting nursing in the country and villages which was given me by the kindness of Lady Hermione Blackwood, made the all too short itinerary in Ireland complete. It would take a whole summer to see the west coast, where the Queen's nurses work in the stone cabins, and to go south to the country where Miss Brodrick, the last time I heard from her, was fighting a whole epidemic of measles single-handed, and to see the ancient towers (a replica of one of which stands at the grave of O'Connell), to say nothing of the scenery. Meantime, in the museum and libraries of Dublin one gets a very fascinating glimpse of the ancient glories of Ireland;—enough, at least, to make one want more.

L. L. D.

NEWS FROM FINLAND

IN the *British Journal of Nursing* we read the important bit of news that Finland is moving toward state registration. The nurses' association has the support of the medical board and the regulations it has framed are now before the Senate. They will finally go to the Emperor of Russia to be approved. Mme. Mannerheim writes:

"The new regulations mean a two years' curriculum of training preceded by a three months' preliminary training, a state examination, followed by the entry of the names of nurses in a state register. It means also higher fees for nurses in the Government hospitals, whose example will, of course, before long, be followed by all the private and town hospitals. It means additional fees after 10 and 15 years' service and a pension at the age of 50, after 20 years' service, when a nurse will get the whole of her first appointments yearly. To us all this seems too good to be true. We certainly would have liked to get the three years' training, but I think this would have seemed such an impossibility to the authorities that we would then scarcely have got anything. Now we shall work towards that goal, and we shall certainly reach it, and in not a too distant future either.

"What has to me been nearly the most wonderful part of it all is that we have nearly all the medical world on our side. In the com-

mittee which worked out the new regulations there were only two nurses to four doctors, and the medical board, when passing the regulations, voted higher fees and pensions than we had dared to ask for.

"When I think of the opposition all things touching the bettering of nurses' conditions have met with in many countries, it makes me feel undeservedly happy in Finland in that respect."

ITEMS

THE matrons of Scotch hospitals are forming a matrons' association.

INVITATIONS of a personal and informal character have been sent to all the foreign Councillors and Officers of the International Council of Nurses to come to the meetings of our national societies, both of which will be held in New York at the end of May.

SISTER AGNES KARLL has credited the authors of "A History of Nursing" beyond their deserts by writing in the *German Nurses' Journal* that the two first volumes of history are also to be sold for the benefit of the International Council treasury after the initial cost is made good. This is a mistake, good Sister Agnes. The third volume is indeed to be sold for the International Council, entirely, and may be bought separately from the two first volumes, so that we hope to have a little income flowing in. The two first volumes will probably do no more than pay for themselves, if that. The third volume is pretty well under way.

A LETTER from Russia in *Jus Suffragii* for February has the following very interesting paragraphs:

"In December there were two congresses held in St. Petersburg, one of neuropathologists, the other of anti-alcoholists. The former passed a resolution stating that the cause of the psychological depression of women is often their political disability, and it is very difficult to combat illness in general without the help of women. To obtain their co-operation they must be enfranchised and be made responsible citizens. The second congress, although not always polite to the ladies present, passed the following resolution:

"This congress is of opinion that, to combat alcoholism successfully, women should be enfranchised, and that habitual drunkenness of the husband should be considered a sufficient cause for divorce."

IN *Nosokomos* for February 9 we read of a most tragic occurrence in the Rudolf-Virchow Hospital in Berlin,—a hospital only a few years old, and which is the last word of science, magnificence, and completeness among new German hospitals, in every respect except one, that is, the arrangement of the work of the women who work in it under

the direction of a hierarchy of medical men. Briefly, three nurses were recently dismissed for having taken some roast fowl from a patient's portion. The head nurse, a faithful and most hardworking woman, was so chagrined by the reprimand administered to herself that she committed suicide. In the inquiry that followed it was found that the hours of work for the nurses overpassed every limit of human endurance, and that they actually had not time enough to eat, as not only were the hours long, but the service most burdensome, for there were never enough women to do the work. Ravenous with hunger and fatigue, to steal a bite on the fly was really the only self-protection open to them at times.

We have heard Sister Agnes speak of the reactionary attitude of the powers that be in this hospital. No matron or superintendent is at the head of the nursing staff, because the doctors will not tolerate the presence of a woman who has any authority to protect the nurses against their imperious rule. To kill one set of people in curing another does not seem an intelligent thing for these men, who stand foremost in scientific knowledge, to do. We have made this criticism before about the German doctors, and hope that the force of public opinion will compel them to place a trained woman head in charge of the nurses in this otherwise perfect hospital.

THE first number of a new Holland journal, "The Hospital" organ of a society for advancing the standards and interests of hospitals has reached us. It is a thoroughly professional and dignified publication, well printed and illustrated. It will concern itself with the building, furnishing, medical service, organization, administration, and technical details of hospitals.

IN pursuance of the resolution passed at the London Congress, the secretary of the International Council of Nurses has sent letters to the presidents of national societies asking them to form standing national committees to carry on the propaganda against venereal disease. Great Britain's committee is formed with Miss Albinia Brodrick at its head. All will be gratified that so capable and earnest a chairman has undertaken this work. In the other countries the subject is being brought forward. The Danish *Tidsskrift* for February and Dutch *Nosokomos* have published articles on venereal diseases. In the United States a medical woman on the committee has compiled a list of instructive literature, much of which is contained in current medical journals. This is distributed to training-school superintendents and alumnae associations.